

20 YEARS OF DISCOVERY & MEMORIES OF ALL THINGS TRAVEL

goingplaces

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MANILA BULLETIN



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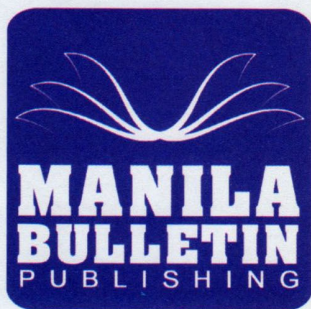
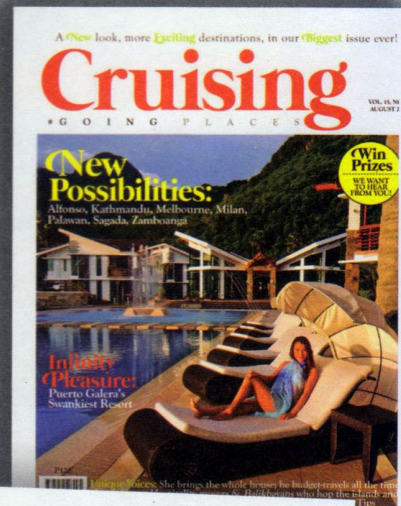
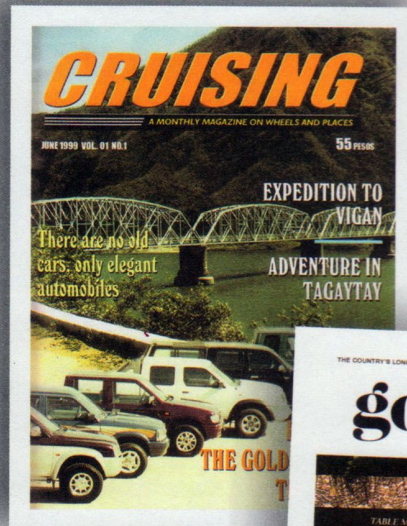
Time and Trends

This issue marks the 20th year of this magazine. Born in June 1999, the first issue (then titled *Cruising*) featured Vigan when it was still this far away place in the North. *Cruising* paved the way for motor travel in the country exploring all corners that a car can reach.

When *Cruising* rebranded in August 2013 to become a travel-lifestyle magazine, its cover featured a new resort in Puerto Galera. It responded to the times when people travel not just to go from one point to another but to have a whole experience.


With the introduction of a new website and social media pages, *Cruising* became *Going Places* in January 2017. The cover, taken in a Tagaytay resort, reflects the 'selfie' culture of travel, highlighting the rise of millennial travelers with a YOLO mindset.


As *Going Places* marks its last bi-monthly issue on its 20th year this June 2019, it has become a testament to the dynamic and ever evolving taste of travel. No matter what time, what place, or what technology, the curiosity to discover new places never ends. #





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Words of Wander

Savor the texts from our writers through 20 years of #GoingPlaces

BY RAYMUND MAGNO GARLITOS

For us who are in the path of travel writing, nothing is more priceless than being able to capture the feelings and thoughts whenever we set foot on a destination. For 20 years, our writers have gone through places across the archipelago and even across the world thinking that being in a destination is not just about the taking of photos and ticking off places in a travel bucket list; the experience is

inevitable, sometimes better felt than imagined.

The editors have chosen 20 best excerpts from the thousands of articles that have appeared in more than 250 issues. We share them because even with just a few words, they are able to capture a multitude of experiences – from the delight of discovery to the fulfillment of a wish.

1

UPON APPROACHING MALAPASCUA ISLAND FOR THE FIRST TIME

“

A powerful spell is cast on every visitor who sets foot on this island with a tragic name: Malapascua (Spanish for "bad Christmas"). There is no hospital on the island, or a doctor to provide emergency aid. Its waters are infested by thresher sharks, manta rays and who-knows-what. Along the beachfront, beside the row of resorts, the public cemetery is the first thing that visitors can see on their way to the island – definitely eerie. All these, yet an average of 700 to 1,000 tourists still flock to the island every month like moths to a flame. Apparently, there is more to Malapascua than a powdered face – this beauty has depth, which smitten admirers can't help but uncover layer by layer... That is definitely no tragedy.

”

~Chris Datol,
Unmasking Malapascua,
July 2010 (Vol. 12 No. 2)



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2

ON STARING STRAIGHT INTO TAAL VOLCANO'S CRATER

"Next time, if Johannes convinces me to go for the buko again, I shall pay prospective guides and horse owners just to keep off my trail. Then, I will be able to contemplate on why I am walking through a mountain with deep cuts on its caked soil, colored a little off-red, and telling of a violent flow of hot mud that must have sliced the ground. Up there, at the crater's lip, I shall look down at the deep green water of another lake, its waters absolutely still. My eyes shall shift through the crater's sides where white streaks show signs of strong eruptions. And I shall wonder when that peaceful lake shall boil and burst into a thousand flaming rocks. I hope it will not be while I'm there – without a horse."

~Pinky Concha Colmenares,
Charmed by a Volcano – Even without a Horse,
March 2002 (Vol. 3 No. 10)

ON REFLECTING WHILE WALKING ON ROME'S ROADS

"We passed by old ruins and met no one as we walked slowly, the cold winds whipping our cheeks. We might as well be pilgrims, walking during the Middle Ages, carrying all our belongings, on our way to Rome. So on and on we walked, the blue of the cloudless sky above us stretching endlessly."

~Alice M. Sun-Cua,
*Meditating Meanderings
along the Old Appian Way*,
September 2010 (Vol. 12 No. 4)

3

ON DISCOVERING THE CULINARY OFFERINGS OF MALABON CITY

"Aside from providing nourishment (and calories), food serves as edible history and cultural identity. Malabon is not just another city that makes up Metro Manila – it clearly has its own identity, creatively expressed by its own people through food. From here on out, pansit won't be the only thing that will come to mind when I hear Malabon."

~Kathrina Paz Elefante,
Malabon Degustation,
July 2014 (Vol. 16, No. 1)

4

ON CLIMBING THE SUMMIT OF MOUNT PULAG

"Do you know how a cloud feels at 2,922 meters above sea level? It's like being hugged by someone who's just stepped out of a pool – it leaves your face damp and cold, but your heart, warm. At the summit of the highest peak in Luzon, that cold feeling comes heated with more emotion. Immediately, my age became just a number, it rolled to the farthest part of my mind. I was standing on a summit only a few will see!"

~Pinky Concha Colmenares,
Trekking Enchantment,
July 2011 (Vol. 13 No. 2)

6

ON ENCOUNTERING THE SIGHTS OF SADANGA IN MOUNTAIN PROVINCE

"We don't have much to offer here in Sadanga," says Noel Lingfawan. Outside the window of his room, there is only the gurgle of a small waterfall rushing behind the house. A little farther and you could hear the faint music, a Billy Ray Cyrus '90s country hit, probably from the radio echoing from the other side of the mountain. Or the sporadic bird chirping from some transient flock of sparrows. I could not even hear human conversations from the neighboring houses. There is only the calm cool air and the astonishing view of rice terraces, turning green to golden yellow as the grains ripened, and the seeming contour of a sleeping sky maiden wrapped in clouds and on top of a mountain, said to be appearing only to those who have no evil seed in their hearts or has not drawn blood yet.

~Raymund Magno Garlitos,
No Sadness in Sadanga,
November 2013 (Vol. 15, No. 6)



ON THE UNIQUE BOND OF HUMAN AND WHALE SHARK AT OSLOB, CEBU

"Marlon and Fermin. I met this unusual pair when I made an unscheduled trip to the southeastern part of Cebu early this summer. I was told that the 2 have become inseparable ever since they found each other late last year. Every morning, Fermin would wait for Marlon to come, knowing that Marlon would be bringing a bag of small shrimps. He seemed to know the shrimps would come from under the faded white wooden boat with orange-colored outriggers, where Marlon throws the food. He recognizes Marlon's gentle calling of his name, 'Fermin.'"

~Joseph T. Bautista,
Enchanting Southern Cebu,
April 2012 (Vol. 13, No. 11)

ON TRYING THE DAVAO WHITEWATER RAFTING ADVENTURE

"Our laughter reverberated around, like when you shout at a school's highway and all you can hear is your voice – albeit a decibel higher as time moves on. Suddenly, ripples began forming in the river as if a thousand coins fell from the sky. The gods must have heard our laughter, as if we were challenging them to a duel, we with our yellow-tipped paddles and blue and red helmets, them with their power to smash things – even stones – with the water's might. I heard the growl of hunger emanating from below the water, and the ripples formed bigger circles until the sound of rush made its presence felt, slowly and surely, until I can't hear anything but the sound of my breath."

~Johannes L. Chua,
Oh My Gosh! Davao Rush!,
July 2011 (Vol. 13, No. 2)

8

ON WITNESSING THE DIFFERENT CULTURES IN MACAU

"It was slow going in the market, and happily so. Bags of pastries and pork jerky dangled from my arms, 3 different kinds of currency jingled in my coin purse. The crowded stalls were abuzz with the cacophony of different languages, the different skin tones, the various personal heritages distinct and separate, yet all sharing the same space. This seemed to be what Macau was: a Chinese temple steeping in the thick smoke of incense sits next to the hushed tones of a Catholic church. European architecture built during colonial times holding their stolid majesty in the face of the hyper-colored bright lights of posh hotels and casinos. The place speaks of the ability to accommodate this mixed up milieu of visitors and immigrants, the idea having long been ingrained through centuries of cross-country trading and colonization. And suddenly, a part of me felt homesick."

~Tanya Sevilla-Simon,
The Lucky Happy Mix, April 2014
(Vol. 15, No. 2014)

9

ON GOING OUT AT XIAMEN'S SHOPPING DISTRICT AT NIGHT

"I looked around and it seemed that Xiamen is just a showcase of greater things for China. In the middle of the night, Tiong San Lo was lit like a star and people everywhere, clad in modern chic clothes, were spending huge money on goods as if this is the night for a shopping spree. But we, Filipinos, were huddled in a corner of the wide avenue, tourists on a prowl for a bargain, in a land where we were strangers for the night."

~Johannes L. Chua,
Xiamen Showcase,
June 2012 (Vol. 14, No. 1)

10

ON TRYING SAND SURFING FOR THE FIRST TIME AT LA PAZ SAND DUNES, ILOCOS NORTE

"When it was my turn to try the sand, it was difficult not to see myself falling, face first, down the steep incline. Maneuvering towards the edge was a bit tricky with a flat board strapped to your feet. The slide down, however, was definitely worth it. The soft, smooth path of sand could have been what slicing butter felt like. It was the ultimate slide for adults like me who used to love the activity on a playground when I was young... This is one activity we'd all love to do again. Our screams just said that!"

~Mae Lorraine Rafols-Lorenzo,
Pinakbet Adventure,
March 2010 (Vol. 11 No. 10)

WHILE TRAVERSING THE DIRT ROADS OF MARINDUQUE

"On a quick glance, everything about Marinduque looks quiet and sleepy. If not for the signature Moriones festival that seems to celebrate an otherwise solemn Lenten season, a spirit of calm seems to possess the entire island. For once did I ever see a province that does not have fast food chains or ritzy cafés or Internet shops that dot every corner of a typical rapidly developing place. Instead of drunkards or dogs littering the roads, I saw pigs – stout ones, covered in coarse black skin or spotted like Dalmatians, coolly strutting their behinds as if 4-wheel contraptions have never ever visited the place."

~Raymund Magno Garlitos,
Maverick Marinduque,
July 2011 (Vol. 13, No. 2)

ON HEARING PORTUGAL'S FADO FOR THE FIRST TIME

"The first time I heard Amália Rodrigues sing this song was during our stay in the Portuguese capital, as we were winding our way through its renowned Alfama or Moorish district. I thought it was Jovita Fuentes singing an Iberian song, because of the similar heart-wrenching way it was sung, and the sadness it evoked was no different when I listened to Ay, Ay, Kalisud, which was vintage Jovita. Later I learned that Amália was one of the revered singers of Fado (which literally meant "fate"), a Portuguese form of music, a deep song of longing, sadness, pain. It was said that in their hearts Portuguese all over the world will always be homesick for the mother country when they heard a fado, and this looking back was deeply ingrained."

~Alice M. Sun-Cua,
Lisboa, O Lisboa!,
March 2011 (Vol. 12 No. 10)

ON EATING SOMETHING 'SINFUL' AND REMEMBERING THE BANTAYAN EXPERIENCE

"A Sunday market sprung out with many of the local products on sale. But the one thing that caught our attention was the newly roasted lechon. We asked how much, and the seller said P350 a kilo. We bought a kilo and 10 pieces of puso rice at P3 each. It's lechon for lunch. It was a cardiac delight all the way. I felt dizzy afterwards. I cannot remember how I got into the return boat and the bus to Cebu City. The lechon made me sleepy all the way. But I was still dreaming of Bantayan. I must come back soon and do more exploration. And next time, I promise to avoid the lechon – the crispy skin, tender meat, succulent fat, and all."

~Joseph T. Bautista,
Bantayan Bliss,
May 2014 (Vol. XV, No. 12)

ON WITNESSING THE OLD AND NEW MERGE IN BAGUIO CITY

"Baguio is a city, I kept reminding myself. And just like any city, it knows how to get in my face, how to enclose me in its warm embrace that borders on a chokehold. There is the safety net of clean restrooms, public transport, Waze, and in-room WiFi. There are also brochures for this and that, traffic jams, rip-offs, and selfie-stick wielding throngs of tourists. And the ubiquitous mall that touts to be a city in itself, having it all for you. Baguio is an old city trying to look young and hip. Your spinster tita who still loves her disco, clumsy with her new iPhone, perhaps. But the question is, who is giving her the makeover? And, do we really want this to happen? On the outside, things may look uneven. But perhaps this is how cities change. A little bit and a bit there, but the heart remains gold – if not as enchanting as the silver at the souvenir shop."

~Tanya Sevilla-Simon,
B is for Baguio,
May 2016 (Vol. 17, No. 12)



ON GOING FOR A DIP IN ONE OF CORON'S LAKES

“Once you get down, you can't help but feel breathlessly amazed by the beauty of Kayangan Lake. The water is teeming with schools and schools of needle fish, who seem to be familiar with human intrusion and would not mind sharing their territory. I take one final dip into its refreshing pool and feel it cleanse all the salt and soothe my skin. One could go for hours in the water, if only for the pruning of the skin. But I still imagine myself still immersed in its waters till now. And feel blessed, blessed, blessed for the sweet chance to be charmed by Coron.”

~Raymund Magno Garlitos,
Captivating Coron,
May 2015 (Vol. 16, No. 12)



ON FINDING A LANDMARK OF THE PAST

The afternoon was rather pleasant and sunny as the salty air blew from the east during my visit to Oslob in Southeastern Cebu. My niece was loitering around with a colorful umbrella as my gaze transfixed at the decaying stone structure behind her. It was massive. Piles of coral stones tower the coastline several meters from the simple façade of the parish church. Except that it was existing with only half of its former self, the other half claimed by the sea over the 2 centuries that it stood there, guarding this part of Oslob from marauders that have pillaged most of the coastal towns.

~Estan Cabigas,
Cebu's Lonely Sentinels of the Sea,
March 2017

ON EXPERIENCING NOSTALGIA IN VIGAN CITY'S HERITAGE VILLAGE

Beneath your feet, the cobble-stoned street completes the charm of the Old World. Look above, and the large windows with panels of capiz shells are defined by charming curly patterns cut out into the wood. How can that not make your imagination run into stories of the families who lived there? Perhaps in the afternoons, the mothers stood by the windows to look down the road for a glimpse of their children at play in the street. Or early in the evening, picture a young lady peep out to check on a beloved waiting below. Oh, the stories those windows can tell!



~Pinky Concha Colmenares,
Old Vigan,
July 2008 (Vol. 10, No. 2)



ON THE 'PRESSURE' OF ROAD TRAVEL WITH A CHILD

"Are we there yet?" This time the question was accompanied with tears and howls of despair. Our calculated 2-hour trip has now gloriously extended to 5 hours, as we found ourselves stuck yet again at the approach of another town. The last town.

I tried to tune out the wailing banshee that was once the excitable little boy this morning. He insisted on turning off the music. His tantrums filled the enclosed space. My own frustration came out only as a sigh.

We were "hangry." No small talk initiated. Any topic— even the weather, can set off the temper bomb. The lunch hour has passed, the trail snacks dwindled as we lost our appetite for it. Our priorities now shifted to finding those darned fastfood restaurants heralded by the posters that dotted the road. Then, soon enough, a cartoon bee face with bright eyes and a wide smile peeked out of the horizon of trees and rusted roofs. According to the sign from where we sat: lunch will be available in 0.5 kilometers.

On the last stretch, I helped him eat sweet spaghetti and fries while I tucked in a cheese burger. But perhaps it was the sugar that gave us the second wind. The traffic rolled at a cruising pace with a few slowdowns: an overloaded delivery truck, a tricycle ferrying tourists, a checkpoint. We finally got off the highway and into the sandy dirt road to the resort.

And never did The Question pop up again.

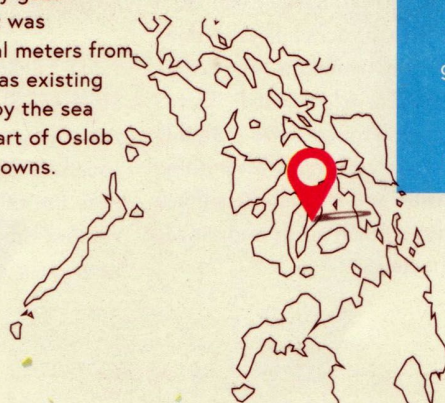
~Tanya Sevilla Simon,
"Are We There Yet?"
June 2018



ON DISCOVERING A NORTHERN TREASURE

Despite being relatively near top tourist destinations like Vigan, only a few tourists have been trickling in to the province. Abra's natural sights are still raw and undeveloped. But for many travellers, that's where the charm lies. Once word gets out on the spectacular sights, I have a feeling more people will be enticed to visit this once-avoided province.

~Kara Santos,
Abra Arrives,
March 2017



10 Simple Steps to a Greener Lifestyle

BY KATHRINA PAZ ELEFANTE

More than ever, travel is impacting our Earth in more ways than one. Do you share and become an eco-warrior even when you travel. A little 'green' action will definitely go a long long way.



Want to go green but don't know where to start? Here are some tips and tricks to help you make the shift to a more eco-friendly lifestyle:

1. ALWAYS BRING A RECYCLABLE BAG

Avoid plastic bags from piling up at home by having a recyclable bag with you when you go out. Unexpected trips to the supermarket means either struggling to carry your groceries (read: brown paper bags with no handles) or buying an eco bag every time.

Save money (and free up your arms) by having an extra canvas tote tucked inside your bag for small purchases and last-minute shopping.

2. REPAIR AND REPURPOSE

Don't throw out that old chair or bookshelf just yet. Sometimes a fresh coat of paint

and a little imagination is all you need to transform old furniture into something totally new.

Consider re-upholstering, repairing or repurposing before throwing anything out!

3. USE WASHABLE CLOTH NAPKINS

Reduce household waste by opting to use washable cloth napkins instead of paper towels.

4. BUY FRESH LOCAL PRODUCE

Opt to buy organic fruits and vegetables from local farmers instead of buying imported and canned items. Using fresh produce means healthier meals since there's shorter time from the farm to your plate. Also, don't take any shortcuts and make your meals from scratch. There's just something more fulfilling about cooking everything yourself and it's definitely much healthier than using ready-made ingredients.

5. GROW YOUR OWN HERB GARDEN

If you love to cook, then having your own little patch of edible greens is not only convenient but also cost effective. Start with planting some basil and mint.

If you have more space available, take it a notch higher with leafy greens and tomatoes.

6. SWITCH TO CHEMICAL-FREE AND ALL-NATURAL PRODUCTS

Throw out synthetic hygiene products and chemical-based household cleaners. Instead, use bath essentials made with natural ingredients and make your own household spray by mixing vinegar with water.

7. USE A CERAMIC MUG AND A STAINLESS STEEL SPORTS BOTTLE

Bring your own mug to get your coffee fix from your café near the office and invest in a vacuum insulated bottle (that keeps your drink hot or cold all

day) instead of buying water in plastic bottles.

8. SIGN UP FOR E-BILLS

Bills create clutter and take up space on your desk so opt to get your bills delivered to your email instead.

9. DITCH THE STRAW

Single-use straws are very dangerous as it can find its way to seas and ocean. This small straw may be harmless to humans but poses great threat to aquatic animals. It also takes almost a hundred years before a single straw can decompose. Imagine the hundreds of thousands disposed daily!

10. MOVE. BE ACTIVE

Nowadays, it is 'popular' to become a keyboard warrior. For once, why not move and actually join a tree-planting or volunteer in disseminating info on recycling. ●

10 Ways to Become an Eco-Conscious Traveler

BY MAE LORRAINE RAFOLS-LORENZO



Here's an eye-opener for all of us who love to travel: Our duty to take care of the environment doesn't go on vacation when we do.

But let's not get ahead of ourselves here and spoil our vacation. There are many ways to be eco-conscious without sacrificing a holiday, or even shelling a fee. And it can actually be very easy – just consider the following suggestions:

1. Take public transport

Taking public transport such as buses or trains when going around a tourist destination lessens your carbon footprint compared to bringing your own vehicle.

2. Walk

Walking is not only good for the body but also for the environment (and to better explore a new place).

3. Cut down on bubble baths

A long luxurious dip in the bathtub is indeed heavenly, but imagine a hotel with 261 rooms, all of which have guests using the tub like twice a day – do you know how much water is wasted? Apparently a lot. So consider taking quick showers instead and spend more time exploring your destination.

4. Turn off the A/C and lights

Let's not waste too much energy and just do the practical thing of turning off electricity when not in use.

5. Respect wildlife

Animals play an important part in the ecosystem – don't mess up the balance! Dolphins should not be used as a chalk board to write 'will you marry me?' during proposals, and whale sharks are not surfboards that you can ride on during immersion trips. Support zoos and facilities which treat animals ethically.

6. Re-use bath towels

Have you encountered the sign that says laundering 1 set of towels in a hotel requires around 16 gallons of water? That's how much water is wasted when you chuck a still clean towel on the floor, not to mention all the chemicals used in laundry soaps and you got yourself an environmental nightmare.

7. Bring a handy cloth bag with your wherever you go

Cloth bags are stylish way to keep personal trash during travels, and they can come in handy when buying *pasalubong* instead of using plastic bags.

8. Make use of earth-friendly gear

Going to the beach? Why not use a Lagu Beach Blanket instead of the usual picnic blanket? Lagu, made locally, is sand-repellant thanks to its special weave of fiber. This avoids sand erosion – a growing global problem where shorelines actually diminish because of rapid urban development and climate change.

9. Get involved in activities that leave less carbon footprint

Love to jet ski? How about paddle boating instead? Try to be involved with fun activities that don't require motorized vehicles as these can affect seabeds and coral reefs. When going up mountains, instead of taking a 4x4 ATV, why not bike instead?

10. Support hotels and resorts with a conscious effort in taking care of the environment

Daluyon Beach and Mountain Resort in Palawan, for example, has partnered with the World Wide Fund to ensure that they promote eco-conscious travels. Not only does the resort make do without motorized beach activities, they also encourage guests to donate to WWF so they can sustain the surrounding mangrove forests. #

#SNAPSHOTS

Coast Call

At this quiet northern town, summer is a year-long affair and a way of life. Shed your city clothes and trade them for fun prints and bold pairings – and discover a new side of yourself in between suns.

(Kath Elefante)

Photos by Jovel Lorenzo

